



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 9

Meeting Date: 6.27.08

Meeting Location: Avon Town Hall
6570 E. US Hwy 36, Avon, IN 46123

Council Members Present:

Kamilla Aeschliman - Director, Boone County DCS, Commissioner Sally Berish - Boone County Circuit Court Char Burkett-Sims - DCS, Region 9 Regional Manager, Andrea Goodwin - Hendricks County DCS, Judge Matthew Headley - Putnam County Circuit Court, Stephanie Kerner - Foster Parent, Heritage Foster and Adoption, Inc., Kandi Killin - Boone County CASA/GAL

Guests Present:

Pat Baldwin - Hendricks County Prosecutor, Kalay Colley - Montgomery County Probation, Mark Fairchild - Community Partners for Child Safety, Brian Foley - Morgan County Probation, Patti Harmless - CASA, Putnam County Youth Development, Jocelyn Moore - Community Partners for Child Safety, Robb Schrimshaw - Foster Care Select, Michael Scime - Montgomery County Youth Services Bureau, Carmen Young - Resource Residential Treatment Facility

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Practice Reform Indicators:

Child Placements:

The goal for DCS in this area is to increase the number of children who can safely live in their own home. Where this is not possible, the goal is to place the child with a relative with whom the child is familiar.

Almost 60% of the children placed in Region 9 are placed at home or with relatives. Region 9 Averages for March, April and May 2008 is as follows:

Own Home:	41.41%
Relative:	18.26%
Foster Care:	29.46%
Residential:	7.9%

Length of Stay in Out of Home Care:

The goal of this indicator is to reduce the time a child is placed out of home. There were 242 children in out of home placements during the month of May 2008 in Region 9. 55.64% of these children had been in care for a year or less. 21.72% were in care for more than one year to two years. 22.6% were in care over 2 years.

Absence of Repeat Maltreatment:

The average rate for Region 9 for the Absence of Maltreatment is 88.69%.
The Region 9 target for this measure is 93% over a 13 month period.

There was discussion of the reports and additional reporting needs. A specific request was made for a report of Informal Adjustments that have failed and become CHINS.

Funding Proposals/ Information:

Parent Project Training

There has been discussion in prior meetings regarding a parenting program called Parent Project Training and the possibility of sponsoring a regional training to develop instructors for the program. Patti Harmless from the Putnam County CASA Program and Kalay Colley from the Montgomery County Probation Department in Montgomery County was asked to provide information regarding the program.

Kala Colley spoke of the Montgomery County program is for children 13-17 years old. The training is 12 weeks with 8 weeks of formal instruction and 4 weeks for parents to develop peer support systems. This 12 week program has been proven to have a stronger impact on parents than the 6 and 10 programs.

In the Montgomery County program, the child does not have to be adjudicated a delinquent to be in the program. Parents self refer and are referred from schools, DCS, law enforcement, and self referrals. The cost of the training is \$356.00 per family. The family is responsible in investing \$50.00 toward the program.

Patti Harmless discussed the information that she had received as a result of exploring the possibility of bringing training to Indiana. There was expressed by members regarding the program and discussion of potential funding as the funding from the Child Welfare Services Account is not available for administrative costs. Kalay, Char, and Patti Harmless with explore options and resources for funding this program through grants and other programs.

There is a website available for more information at www.parentproject.com.

DCS Changes in Funding:

There will be some significant changes in funding of probation through DCS. Committees have been formed to determine the final process. Beginning January 1, all services will need to be approved through the Regional Services Council. Procurement processes will need to be utilized and contracts will be negotiated with all providers. Services under \$75,000 do not require full procurement processes. There are currently provider service standards which will apply to all purchased services.

General Discussions:

Region 9 Attorney Shortage

Commissioner Berish expressed concern that the caseload for the attorney for Boone and Hendricks has increased significantly and is not reasonably manageable. The attorney for Montgomery and Putnam has expressed very similar concerns to the Regional Manager and to staff. It is also anticipated that the changes resulting from HB1001 will provide additional responsibilities for DCS attorneys and as such there is a clear need for additional attorneys in Region 9. It is the recommendation of the Council that the minutes reflect this concern.

Regional Services Council Membership:

Changes will be taking effect July 1st, 2008 with the RSC membership expanding. Each representative group will identify the individual(s) from their respective groups who will be participating on the Council. All non-DCS members will be identified by the next meeting July 25th. As there is to be an equitable distribution of members across the counties within the Region, DCS will finalize its membership once others members have been identified. We will also need to begin the process of recommendations for the youth representative.

Community Partners for Child Safety:

Mark Fairchild reports the Program is going well. There have been a very large number of referrals. They are anticipating increased referrals with the start of the school year. The office space in Morgan County fell through due to the flooding and they are now looking at a new location. They will also be working with Morgan and Putnam County flood victims. At the Hendricks County Kids Fair they raised \$3000 and received funding from local businesses for the resource guides for Morgan and Hendricks Counties. They continue to receive great support from the communities in Region 9.

Grant Proposal for Heritage Foster Adoption Support, Inc. for Respite Care Activities:

Stephanie Kerner, from Heritage Foster Adoption Support, Inc., advised the council that they have made a proposal for a grant in funding respite care activities. They will be partnering with DCS to develop respite care for foster parents in our region as well as working together to enhance support for foster parents.

Next Meeting Date: 7.25.08

Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Avon Town Hall, 6570 E. US Hwy 36, Avon, IN 46123

Meeting concluded at 11:45 AM